The Border Shop at Flower Demon Gate

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CHAPTER. 2 -
FOREVER, WITH YOU

WHAT? A LETTER OF INTEREST?
YES, THAT'S FINE.
DO WE TAKE YOKAI?
HELLO?
RING RING RING RING RING
がちゃ
SORRY, WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANYTHING LI—
びくぅ
SFX: JUMP
SFX: RUSTLE
SFX: CLICK
CAW
CAW
Agagagagah
I JUST RECEIVED IT! THANKS, CROW!
SHALL I OPEN IT RI.. WHAT?
AN ... ITSUMADE?
CAW!
STUNNED
SFX: FLUTTER

ITSUMADE IS A TYPE OF YOKAI THAT APPEARS WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAVE RECENTLY DIED.
IT TAKES ON THE FORM OF A HIDEOUS BIRD AND CRIES "HOW LONG? HOW LONG?"*
*"ITSU MADE?" "ITSU MADE?" IN JAPANESE
THEY'LL COME IN TWO DAYS
SFX CAWWW, CACKAAA!
HUH, CHICKEN?
IT WOULD BE NICE IF THIS ONE CAN GET WHAT IT WANTS OUT OF LIFE.
THEY MADE PEOPLE FEEL SO BAD THAT THEY WERE A VERY FEARED TYPE OF YOKAI
SFX RING

RING
RING
RING

SFX RUSTLE
SFX BOOM
SFX SCRITCH
SFX SLITHER
CACKAAAACKAAA!
FLUTTER FLUTTER
CALM DOWN, CHICKEN!
Ow!
SFX FLOOM

THE DOOR'S A LITTLE SMALL HUH?
みっちり
SFX STUCK FIGHT
ぐっ
SFX GEH
I'M HANABUSA MINORU THE BORDER SHOP OWNER
UM YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OKAY?
SMILE
Would you like some tea?
SFX SNIVEL X7

That's right
SFX SCRITCH
SFX BOOM
WHAT...
WAS THAT SOUND?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?!
SFX SLAM
OH.
AYABE...

SFX: FLOW
どぢゃ
FSHT
FSHT
HA HA HA.
WELCOME
Save me.
Heh heh
THAT WAS SUCH A LOUD SOUND I WONDERED WHAT IT WAS
I WAS SO SURPRISED TO SEE YOU BOTH IN THERE WITH ALL THOSE FEATHERS
YOU REALLY HELPED US OUT
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T HURT
SFX: SPARKLE
NOW THEN! EVERY-THING'S CLEARED AWAY!
ANYWAY I'VE BROUGHT YOU THE THINGS!
GOOD LUCK!
YOU SET THANKS!
I'll be leaving now
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO LET IT BOTHER YOU THAT MUCH
SFX: GLOOM

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
LOOK, LOOK DON'T WORRY, OKAY?
ANYWAY, AT LEAST COME OVER HERE AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT, TOO
I'll be tasty!
LABELS. MELON SODA WAFER CAKE, TASTY!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, HANABUSA
I AM THE ITSUMADE
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I APOLOGIZE BUT I WILL SPEAK FROM WITHIN MY MIND.
THE TRUTH IS
I DIDN'T COME TO YOU IN ORDER TO START A NEW LIFE HERE.
UM
AH, I SEE!
THAT IS ONLY MY CRY.
HUH? YOU DON'T JUST SAY "HOW LONG? HOW LONG?"

FOR SEVERAL DECADES,
I'VE WATCHED OVER THE GRAVE OF A CERTAIN PERSON
OF COURSE, I FLY AND DISGUISE MYSELF SO I WON'T BE SEEN
I CAN DO NOTHING BUT PEEK OUT FROM INSIDE A TREE'S SHADOW
ONE DAY
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW A HUMAN VISITING A GRAVE
AH HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF I COULD MOURN LIKE A HUMAN
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

I'LL HELP YOU OUT!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
PLEASE HANABUSA YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE
COMPLETE FAILURE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO REMEMBER!
OF COURSE! HELPING YOKAI IS MY JOB!
IS IT REALLY OKAY?
LET'S START WITH YOUR HANDS
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TAKING ON HUMAN FORM?
☆ My tatami's all ripped up
ずたずた
SFX: MOBILE X4
SFX: RIPPED UP

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME ITSUMADE?!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
CRACK
SFX WHAM
SFX WOBBLE X2
NO THEN I'LL NEVER IMPROVE
WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE BREAK?
Ouch!
ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU GET HURT?

AAAH!
TORE APART THE CLOTHES
DIDN'T TAKE ON A HUMAN APPEARANCE
AAAH!
YOU'VE ALREADY IMPROVED! AFTER ALL, AT FIRST YOU COULDN'T EVEN TAKE ON HUMAN FORM!
IT'S FINE!
DIDN'T HIDE THE TAIL
PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES.
What?!
One more time!
Aah-WHAM
Are you okay?
SLAM
BUT,
IF I DON'T DO MY BEST...

ずっっっっん
I REALLY DO THINK YOUR BODY NEEDS A BREAK
LOOK HOW SCRATCHED UP YOUR FEET ARE
WE'VE BEEN GOING SO FAST YOU CAN'T GET USED TO IT...
AND I'M OUT OF BANDAGES AND GAUZE, SO AYABE WILL HAVE TO BRING SOME...
SFX GLOOOOOM
WHY...
IS THE NON-HUMAN WAY OF GRIEVING SO DISLIK-ABLE TO YOU?
HANABUSA.
BUT
DISLIKE-ABLE,
THAT IT'S
IT'S NOT...

DO YOU KNOW HOW ITSUMADE ARE BORN?
NO
?
WILL YOU LISTEN TO THE DESIRES THAT HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLACE?
THIS... ALL STARTED LONG AGO
PEOPLE IGNORED IT, MAKING IT A WASTELAND. THEY DIDN'T HOLD BURIAL CEREMONIES FOR THE DEAD AND DIDN'T LOOK AT IT.
EVENTUALLY, THE CORPSES AND WEAPONS ALL STARTED TO DECOMPOSE.
THE BATTLEFIELD WAS A CRUEL PLACE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSED.

THE FIRST THING I REMEMBER IS BEING THERE
WITH MY FEARSOME, BIRD-LIKE FORM, I WAS CRYING "HOW LONG? HOW LONG?"
HOW LONG?
SFX: FWOOOSH
HOW LONG?
HOW LONG?
AND WAS IT NOT THE HUMANS' FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ALL I EVER DID WAS CRY IN THEIR EARS AS THEY PASSED THROUGH THE WASTELAND.
AAA
H!

BUT ONE DAY, A MAN CAME WALKING THROUGH.
EVERY PERSON I CRIED TO REACTED THE SAME WAY.
MANY YEARS PASSED.
NO MATTER HOW
I QUIETLY APPROACHED.
SURE THAT DAY WOULD BE NO DIFFER-ENT.
HOW LONG?
HOW LONG?
HOW LONG?

ARE YOU THE ITSUMADE?
BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT.
IF YOU'RE HERE,
THAT MUST MEAN THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO WERE NEVER BURIED PROPERLY, RIGHT?
HE LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYES.
WAIT JUST A MOMENT.
THIS IS ALL I HAVE, I'M AFRAID

SFX SFLAAAASSSHHH

IT WAS SUCH A PUNY OFFERING I WANTED TO ASK IF HE'D REALLY INTENDED TO HOLD A CEREMONY...
AND I ONLY HAVE THIS TO EAT. YOU CAN EAT IT WITHOUT FIGHTING THOUGH, RIGHT?
Right?
HOLDING A BURIAL CEREMONY FOR ME WON'T HELP ME PASS ON TO THE NEXT REALM
BESIDES, I'M A YOKAI, NOT A RESTLESS SPIRIT.
Ah, the expiration date is soon! You'd better eat it straight away!
BUT...

HE CAME TO VISIT ME MANY TIMES AFTER THAT.
YO!
THE PAIN IN MY CHEST VANISHED
AND FLY INTO THE SKY TOGETHER
WE WOULD EAT PASTRIES TOGETHER
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS PASSED, HE NEVER HAD ANY OBJECTIVE BEYOND BEING MY FRIEND

I BEGAN TO TAKE HIS VISITS FOR GRANTED.
AND COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT TIME WAS PASSING.
HUMAN LIVES ARE SUCH SHORT THINGS.
WHEN HE DIDN'T COME TO VISIT FOR A WHILE, I WENT SEARCHING. BUT HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.
SINCE THEN, I'VE KEPT WATCH OVER HIS GRAVE.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO VISIT HIS GRAVE IN THE HUMAN WAY.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S GONE. I WANT TO TREAT HIM AS HE TREATED ME.
THE ONLY THING THAT REDUCED THE PAIN IN MY HEART WAS THINKING ABOUT HOLDING A CEREMONY FOR HIM...
CLENCH
SO THAT HE, TOO, CAN BE AT PEACE...
L...
CACKAW
THAT'S HOW I FEEL...
EVEN THOUGH I'M A YOKAI

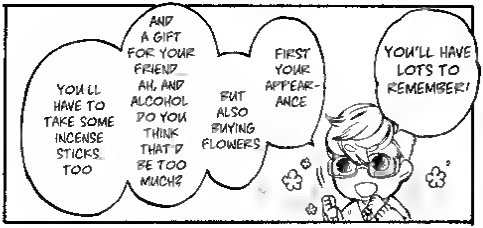
LET'S DO OUR BEST...
AND GO NOW, TO YOUR FRIEND'S GRAVE
LOOK AT YOUR FEET. YOU REALLY WANT TO GO, DON'T YOU?
BUT I'M FRIENDS WITH CHICKEN!
Even humans and chickens can be friends!
SAYING WE'RE FRIENDS
WAIT A MINUTE. HE WAS HUMAN AND I'M A YOKAI
W
And why are you crying?
YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM THE SAME TREATMENT HE GAVE YOU, RIGHT?
SFX: SLAM

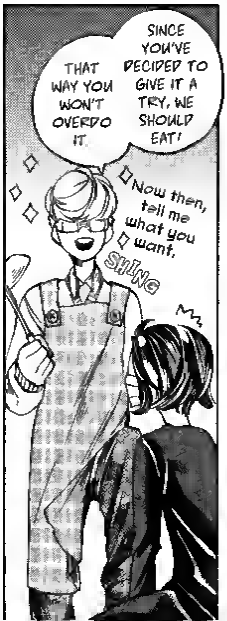
YOU'VE WANTED TO VISIT YOUR FRIEND'S GRAVE ALL THESE YEARS

I'M SURE HE THOUGHT NOTHING OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOKAI AND HUMANS
AND IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TRUE AT FIRST, BUT SURELY HE MUST HAVE COME TO THINK OF YOU FONDLY, RIGHT?

IF THERE'S SOMEONE YOU WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING TO, THEY'RE YOUR FRIEND.
GRIN
For sure!

AH I'M SO MOVED!
THE TEARS WON'T STOP WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SNIFF
FRIENDS...


YOU'LL HAVE LOTS TO REMEMBER!
FIRST YOUR APPEARANCE
BUT ALSO BUYING FLOWERS
AND A GIFT FOR YOUR FRIEND... AH, AND ALCOHOL DO YOU THINK THAT'D BE TOO MUCH?
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE SOME INCENSE STICKS TOO


SINCE YOU'VE DECIDED TO GIVE IT A TRY, WE SHOULD EAT!
THAT WAY YOU WON'T OVERDO IT.
Now then, tell me what you want,
SHING

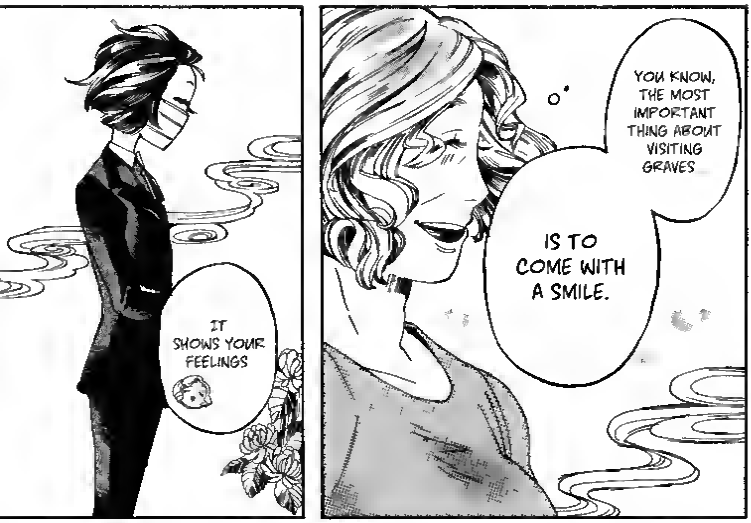
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT ALL! DO YOUR BEST! YEAH!
YEAH...!

ANOTHER DAY...
RUSTLE
FLAT FLAT
THAT'S RIGHT TIE IT THROUGH THERE
YEAH
OH YOU TIED THE NECKTIE PERFECTLY!
IT WAS HARD ISN'T IT TWISTED?
IT'S FINE!
SPARKLE
YOU DID IT ALL BY YOURSELF, AFTER ALL...
HANABUSA
I'M GOING NOW,
TO MY FRIEND'S GRAVE
THANK YOU.

CRTCH
TAKE CARE!
SFX: FSSHHH
SFX: RUSTLE X3
THAT'S THE DIRECTION I ALWAYS SAW THIS FROM.
ざわわ
ざわわ

DO YOU FEEL WARMTH NOW?
ITSU-MADE!
FLINCH
OH.
OH MY.
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THAT SURPRISED?
Ha ha!
PANIC PANIC
NOD NOD
NOD NOD
HELLO THERE
YOU MUST BE A FRIEND OF MY FATHER'S

THAT'S RIGHT.
MY FATHER HAD LOTS OF MYSTERIOUS FRIENDS
THEY COME TO HIS GRAVE ONCE IN A WHILE.
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO COMES THAT LEAVES FEATHERS THAT FLY DOWN.
THE HUGEST FEATHERS YOU'VE EVER SEEN AND SO MANY OF THEM
THERE'S ALWAYS, ALWAYS SOMEONE HERE.
I'LL COME AGAIN.
IT MAKES MY FATHER VERY HAPPY.


IT SHOWS YOUR FEELINGS
YOU KNOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT VISITING GRAVES
IS TO COME WITH A SMILE.

MY MOUTH IS VERY FRIGHTENING EVEN IN THIS FORM...
SURE WHY?
HANABUSA DO YOU HAVE A MASK?

SINCE YOU'VE GONE ALL THE WAY THERE YOU SHOULD SHOW HIM A SMILE TOO
WELL DON'T FEEL OBLIGATED
YOUR FEELINGS ARE WHAT'S IMPORTANT, IT'S MADE
DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU'LL COME AGAIN RIGHT?
HE'LL BE VERY PLEASED

GRIN
FOREVER.

HUH?
SFX FLAP
SFX FLUTTER X3
SFX SHOOM
SFX: FSSHHHH

SFX SHOOOM
!
WELL!

FLUTTER
I WONDER HOW ITSUMADE'S DOING
OH
FLOP
HOW LONG? HOW LONG?
FOREVER HUH?

花鬼扉の境目屋さん